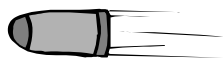


### Did you know?

1899 artillery rounds could travel 3.2 miles, but accurate at only half that. Today, a Multiple Launch Rocket System can fire 130 miles accurately.



# Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

### Charleston facts

Fifty-one percent of enlisted members and 12 percent of officers at Charleston AFB are married.



## BAH rates for 2000 released

Defense Department officials recently announced new Basic Allowance for Housing rates, which took effect Jan. 1 and apply to all military services.

"The good news is the rates for people living in high-cost areas are increasing," said Maj. Justo Rivera, chief of Air Force Pay and Allowance Policy. "On the other hand, over half of our Air Force installations are located in areas with lower housing costs and, over time, newly assigned people there will receive lower BAH rates. However, the lower rates will not apply to those who are currently living in these areas, as they are 'rate protected.'"

Under this "protection," if BAH rates decrease, members' current allowances remain unchanged; if the housing allowances increase, members will receive the higher amount.

"The lowered rates will only affect members who arrived at their new assignment after Dec. 31, 1999, since the BAH legislation includes a 'rate protection' provision to protect currently assigned members from fluctuating local housing costs," Rivera said.

He said a significant feature of the new BAH program is, regardless of where airmen are assigned, out-of-pocket expenses are equalized for every grade. No matter where in the country people move, they'll have the same expenses.

see BAH, page 3



### Watch those pinkies

Airman 1st Class Eddie McDonald, 437th Component Repair Squadron, inspects fan blades on the engine of a C-141 Starlifter. The last Charleston-based C-141 is scheduled to leave here in September.

Charlie Wall

## Aircrews prepare for evaluation

Team Charleston will have an opportunity to prove its ability as an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation team arrives on base Tuesday. ASEV team members will evaluate the proficiency of the Charleston AFB flying crew force and examine standardization and evaluation programs within the 437th Airlift Wing.

The team will be comprised of 20 evaluators and specialists from Headquarters Air Mobility Command and 21st Air Force. They will perform "check rides" and examine programs in the C-17A squadrons and the 315th and 437th operations groups, according to Col. Ron Richardson, 437th Operations Group commander.

"When ASEV evaluators take a look at what the Air Force Times has reported as 'the busiest wing,' they will find a team of inspired, dedicated airlift professionals who excel in all aspects of the mobility mission," Richardson said.

"The ASEV evaluators will examine many of our standardization and training processes for compliance with published guidance," Richardson explained. "They will also undoubtedly uncover some unique and impressive activities that we've developed, what we often call 'best practices.' I'm confident that the routine evaluations will yield outstanding results."

The C-141 community is not subject to a formal ASEV evaluation because the weapon system is being phased out at Charleston AFB this year. However, the commander of the 16th AS, Lt. Col. J.J. Wendling, is leading his squadron through an equivalent of a unit ASEV.

"Lt. Col. Wendling's decision to

see ASEV, page 5

## 437th Supply Squadron adopts new scanner system to track items

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

If you notice a number of people pointing something that looks like a ray gun, don't be alarmed. They're not Martians preparing to invade Charleston, but rather members of the 437th Supply Squadron scanning supply items as they're delivered as part of the new Supply Asset Tracking System.

The handheld terminals, called JANUS 2020s, look like ray guns with calculators on top. The terminals are small portable computers with a built-in scanner and radio transmitter.

SATS is a paperless initiative designed to improve the efficiency of warehousing and asset movement by using barcodes and radio links. Instead of signing for property on paper, a smart card is inserted into a handheld terminal and their PIN number is punched in like an automatic teller machine. The biggest change is customers will no longer accept deliveries by signing a paper document.

"SATS is an initiative that adapts the best practices being used in private industry. We see SATS as a win-win scenario, for supply and for our customers," said Mark Thompson, a

supply systems analyst in the 437 SUPS. "SATS will simultaneously allow more efficient, less labor-intensive operations while providing greater accountability, accuracy and customer support."

The smart cards contain a microchip and look like an ATM card. Delivery drivers will upload and download the information from the portable terminals via a personal computer or over the radio frequency network when they get back to supply.

"SATS is designed to replace all of our paper issue documents and it'll also give us total asset visibility on base," Thompson said. "From the

time a part arrives in the base system until it reaches the actual air- see SATS, page 2



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

The JANUS 2020s are small portable computers with a built-in scanner and radio transmitter.